

FORMOSA STRAITS

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25X1A NSA



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NSC BRIEFING

20 April 1955

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FORMOSA STRAITS BACKGROUND

- I. Most significant developments in past ten days of quiet have been new proofs of ChiCom efforts to improve air capability in coastal area.

A.



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1. [REDACTED] at least 39 on the field.

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C.

II. On 15 April, a MAAG team completed a "combat readiness" test of Matsu command defenses. They gave the garrison an overall rating of "satisfactory," but found four areas of weakness:

A. Garrison units on the White Dogs (12 M. south of Matsu) are understrength. Filler troops for these units are still on

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Formosa getting basic training, and not scheduled for completion of training

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Matsu Command, is inexperienced and shows "general weakness."

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- C. Matsu Garrison Command is not giving proper priority to such essential tasks as construction of minimum field fortification and rehearsal of defense plans. Giving priority instead to making themselves comfortable, and building second-priority fortifications.
- D. Deficiencies in machine-guns, mortars, recoilless rifles, AT guns. These weapons are still under 100 percent of T/E units. MND in Taipei is dragging feet on supply of these weapons, but-- under MAAG prodding--situation gradually getting better.

III. Same MAAG team found morale of regular troops on Matsus generally high.

- A. Native Formosan soldiers in defense command (about 3,000) appear happy and gradually adjusting to new life.

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however, and their effectiveness and dependability reduced.

1. Guerrillas on Yinshan (small island about 35 miles northeast of Matsu), who were recruited some years ago in Hong Kong and who make up nearly half of Yinshan garrison are of "highly questionable loyalty."

C. Nationalist plans for withdrawal and retaining of all guerrillas being carried forward.

1. MAAG has recommended that 600 demoralized guerrillas on Wuchiu (75 M South of Matsus) be withdrawn and Wuchiu abandoned or garrisoned with regulars.

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